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COMMITTEE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES
OF ENERGY AND ON ENERGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT
Special session
6-17 February 1995
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

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6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its special session.

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Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

By decision 1994/309, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would hold a session in February/March 1995, within existing resources, in order to provide advice on energy for rural development to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, in April 1995.

2. Energy for rural development

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1994/309, the Committee is to provide advice on energy for rural development to the Commission on Sustainable Development when the Commission considers chapter 14 of Agenda 21 (Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development). Background working papers prepared by experts on the experience of their countries and/or regions in energy for rural development will be made available to the Committee.

3. Biomass for energy

Also in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1994/309, the Committee is to provide advice to the Commission on Sustainable Development on biomass energy in relation to rural development and associated areas (sustainable agricultural development, land use, deforestation, desertification, development of mountain ecosystems and biodiversity) in connection with its consideration of chapter 14 of Agenda 21.

4. Development of energy resources in developing countries

In its resolution 1992/56, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the critical importance of the development of energy resources of developing countries and the need for measures by the international community to assist and support the efforts of developing countries to develop their energy resources. The Council also reaffirmed that developing countries had the primary responsibility for the strategies and policies for exploration and development of their energy resources and that an adequate flow of external resources in support of the national efforts of developing countries was needed to finance the exploration and development of their energy sources.

In the same resolution, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on energy exploration and development trends in developing countries (A/47/202-E/1992/51) and requested the Secretary-General to keep the matter under review and to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 1994 a report on the efforts made in that regard. It also requested the Secretary-General to draw the matter to the attention of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development at its first substantive session. An earlier report of the Secretary-General (A/45/274-E/1990/73 and Corr.1), submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council, had stressed the need to adopt comprehensive national, bilateral and multilateral measures in order to

accelerate the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries, including new and renewable sources of energy. In resolution 45/209, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and the outline of a programme of action for the acceleration of energy exploration and development in developing countries contained therein.

5. Energy coordination

In resolution 47/191, paragraph 24, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its substantive session of 1993, recommendations and proposals for improving coordination of programmes related to development data that existed within the United Nations system.

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1991/90, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), to include in the annual report of ACC submitted to the Council at its regular session of 1992, a section on the most effective ways and means of enhancing coordination in the mineral and energy sectors.

In resolution 45/208, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of increasing inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system, as well as coordination of development activities for new and renewable sources of energy at all levels.

At its first session, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the main energy programme activities within and outside the United Nations system (E/C.13/1994/4), and decided to continue its discussion at a future session. The Committee may wish to discuss this item further at its present session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its special session

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235, the Committee submits its report to the Economic and Social Council with policy options and recommendations. In accordance with Council decision 1994/309, the report of the special session of the Committee, in particular the conclusions and recommendations, will contain advice for the Commission on Sustainable Development on energy for rural development (programme area K of chapter 14 of Agenda 21). The Committee's report will therefore be made available to the Commission at its third session.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 37/14 C, in which the Assembly reiterated that subsidiary organs should strive to keep their reports within the desirable limit of 32 pages, and requested that all subsidiary organs whose reports exceeded that limit to submit to the Committee on Conferences, prior to its next session, reasons for non-compliance.